

**18.** A data structure stored in a memory of a computer system having a mechanism for representing the data structure to at least two clients connected to the computer system, the data structure including:

a plurality of general entries including an entry identifying the at least two clients, wherein the modification of general entries is controlled by a central data structure server;

at least one variable entry, the variable entry being defined by one of the at least two clients, the variable entry including a name of an information item and a value of the information item.

**19.** A collaboration system comprising:

means for associating an item of information with a shared object, the shared object including an access list identifying members in the collaboration system having access to the object;

means for updating an attribute of the shared object in response to a requests from one member in the access list; and

means for notifying all members in the access list associated with the shared object of the updated attribute of the shared object.

**20.** A collaboration system comprising:

a plurality of objects, each object representing an item of information and having an access list identifying a group of members interested in the each object; and

a relation database for storing, for at least one object, at least one identifier of at least one interested object, wherein the identifier is used to notify members in the group of the at least one interested object of changes to the item of information of the at least one object.

**21.** A collaboration system comprising:

a first client device including a first storage device for storing a copy of at least one object to be shared with a second client device, the object having an attribute identifying information content associated with the object;

means for maintaining consistency of the information content associated with the object, including means for broadcasting changes to the information content made by the first client to the second client and means for updating the information content in response to an update notification received from the second client.

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